

CHILD LIFE.

A Prominent Feature of Rev. Joseph Speer's Discourse.

THE SEASON OF ANTICIPATION

FINDS THE CHILD DELIGHTFULLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF SANTA CLAUS, AND THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION OF THE REALITY OF HIS AUGUST PERSONAGE—ALL THE ANTICIPATIONS OF LIFE, EVEN IN LATER YEARS, CAN NOT BE REALIZED.

Yesterday morning at the Second Presbyterian church, the pastor, Rev. Joseph Speer delivered an eloquent and timely discourse on "Anticipation." From the references to the children's delightful anticipations of Christmas joys, was drawn a comforting lesson.

His text was from Malachi 3:1: "And the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in, behold he shall come saith the Lord of hosts." Rev. Mr. Speer said:

This is a season of anticipation of old and young alike; the old anticipating the joy and pleasure of the young; the young anticipating what gifts shall be made unto them by the old. The house where child life dwells is full of anticipation and suppressed excitement, waiting for the eventful morning which will reveal the parental love.

What parent would think of marring one of childhood's pleasant memories, and in a cold, cynical manner tell the little child there is no such person as Santa Claus? Soon enough, ah, too soon enough they learn the reality of life, and for this very reason childhood should be made as bright and beautiful as it is possible for the advanced in years to do, that there may be the holding to the good and beautiful in the maturer years. I know there is no Santa Claus. So do you. But I am fully persuaded that in this old, mythical story there is an open door to the young heart, and that great and good lessons may be taught and learned by old and young alike at this time.

As I have said, this is a season of anticipation, and none are too old to enjoy the excitement of the Christmas tide, and when we pause and consider the words we have for the text, does it not awaken within each soul an anticipation of future events? "When the Lord shall come a dreadful form, In rainbow wreath, in robes of fire, On cherub wing on winds of wind, Appointed Judge of all mankind."

The whole Old Testament teaches us a great lesson of anticipation. All that the ages have foretold in prophecy and song have not yet been fulfilled for you and me. This is a prophetic age as well as a Gospel age, and we are living in anticipation. As you read the Old Testament history with its deceit and degradation, its slavery and emancipations, its plagues and famines, wars and desolation, its sufferings and sorrows, individual and national, our souls are sad; we seek a relief from the turmoil and strife, we look around for a place of quiet; we listen amid all the clash of battle and sighs of oppressed for the word of cheer, and lo, a voice from the gloom and shadow is heard, saying unto the seekers after God "And the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple."

It has been fully demonstrated that mankind in general are "seekers after God." That in every man there is an anticipation of realizing the desires. And thus every day becomes a day of anticipation, and every day a Christmas day when the realization of the greatest anticipation, that can possess the heart or mind of man is consummated by the "Lord suddenly coming to His temple," and the apostle asks, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God," adding that if any man defile the temple of God himself shall God destroy. "For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." When Malachi wrote the words of this text he evidently intended a closer relationship between Christ and man than the mere entrance with or among them into the temple of Jerusalem. The anticipation of the Christian world shall have something more lasting in view than the mere coming of the Christmas time with its joys and gifts, yet the Christmas time as has been said, makes opportunities upon old and young alike the great love of God in giving to the world the gift of Jesus as a Savior. Yet the realization of this gift is not what it is supposed at the act of conversion, but the full enjoyment of the gift of Christ is eternal life.

It is impossible for man while dwelling here on this earth to fully realize his anticipations. Philosophers, Pagans and Christians, in their search after knowledge, never realized their anticipations. Galileo, who cared for none of those things which took place before him, was an earnest student, and while his ambition was to be an eloquent speaker in the forum, his anticipations were not realized. Seneca, his brother, sought after truth in the inward parts, but surrounded as he was by pagan ideas and gods, cited and approved by some of the most eminent Christians as a wise and god philosopher, yet he never realized his anticipations, although contemporary with St. Paul and doubtless had heard of Christ, he remained a pagan, as the term goes, yet when he heard of the admirable practice of self-examination that "when the day was over and he betook himself to his nightly rest, he used to ask himself, 'What evil have you cured to-day? What vice have you resisted? In what particular have you improved?' and in speaking of this custom in his 'book of Anger,' he says: 'And I daily plead any cause before myself when the light has been taken away, and my wife, who is aware of my habit, has become silent. I carefully consider in my heart the entire day, and take a deliberate estimate of my deeds and words.' And when we consider the surroundings of his children we can fully appreciate the sentiment of this daily retrospection.

The birth of a child in the house of a Greek or Roman was not necessarily a subject of rejoicing—"No halo of romance or poetry was shed over those early years." All the innocent pleasures of infancy, the joys of the hearth, the charm of the domestic circle, the flow and sparkle of childish gaiety, were by them little appreciated. The

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years before manhood were years of anticipation, and in most cases of little to make them worth the retrospect.

With but one or two exceptions do the ancient writers and poets, even in a passing manner, refer to their earlier years. Is this the case with modern writers and poets? Ah, no. Every book of poems, every paper, every magazine, even the daily press has much to say about child life, and Canon Farrar says in this respect: "The lovely lines of Henry Vaughan might be taken as a type of thousands more:

"Happy those early days, when I Shined in my angel infancy. Before I understood the place Appointed for my second race Or taught my soul to fancy aught But a white celestial thought."

Before I taught my tongue to wound My conscience with a sinful sound, Or had the black art to dispense A several sin to every sense, But felt through all this fleshly dress Bright shoes of everlastingness."

Well may the question be asked: "How is it that the Greeks and Roman poets neglect the morning of life, which should have been so filled with natural blessedness, yet seems to have been a blank?" What is it that makes the morning of life so joyous now? Is it not the home life, and the sweet lessons of tenderness and love learned at the mother's knee, trifles they may seem to some, yet trifles that are rendered noble and beautiful in the maturer years of life, even when the children's anticipations are as far off as ever. Yet the very home life is the anticipation of something better, purer, holier, and what man or woman, looking back to the home nest and the loving mother, but is stirred with deep emotion as he remembers the patience, love and watchfulness bestowed, and well might the poet Tennyson write:

"Happy he With such a mother! Faith in woman-kind Beats with his blood, and trust in all things high Comes easy to him, and though he trip And fall, He shall not bind his soul with clay."

For there has been planted in his inmost soul a deep anticipation of the best side of life, especially the reality of life, and the idea of motherhood is carried into life to be a bane or a blessing to the future, for the home life has more to do with the spiritual life than can be told in words. The old proverb "that the boy is father of the man" is in every way true. The lessons of home take firm hold upon the heart and life of the child; which time cannot efface. The lesson of the Christmas tide can be made effective, its anticipations applied to higher and holier things than the mere exchange of gifts.

True, it is an old story, but ever new; last year some were too young to anticipate the joy. This year they but faintly grasp the meaning; next year it will be a reality, and life will begin in earnest, looking into the future, the preparations for life's battle, the anticipation of what shall be, and those who are looking back are doing so with kindest wishes that time and the world may deal gently with the little ones, but as we contemplate all this there still remains the lesson of the text, "The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in. Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

This is a prophecy fulfilled, and yet unfulfilled. In a general sense it has been; in a specific sense it is being fulfilled every day. As the Savior of the world, Christ came in the likeness of man. As the personal Savior he is coming in the spirit, day by day into his temples, and to come to many a temple this day. "Suddenly, not that there are to be sudden conversions, but the years of preparation and anticipation will be realized. The lessons of home and church will be perfected in that moment by the messenger of the covenant of grace, bringing the glad tidings to the "heart bowed down," good cheer and hope will fill the temple of the messenger. Delightful, indeed, is the place where "His honor dwelleth." The way has been prepared in the innocence of childhood, gradually the truth makes its way, and suddenly, in a time least expected, perhaps when the gloom and darkness of life trails heaviest, "The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in, and what a joy he brings to the heart, how he brightens the heart, making the temple a delight to family and friends, bringing great and precious gifts of grace and peace, which are but a foretaste of that which is to come.

May the joy of the Lord be your strength and delight. May the anticipation of this season be fully realized. May the Lord dwell in your hearts richly by faith, and when the unexpected comes to pass, when the messenger of the covenant comes to you to summons you into the presence of Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, the realization of all your anticipations will be found perfect in the temple not made with hands eternal in the Heavens, where Jesus reigns King and Lord.

AT THE Y. M. C. A.

Address Yesterday Afternoon Delivered by Rev. Dr. Kyle.

The regular men's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. yesterday afternoon was addressed by Rev. Dr. S. M. Kyle, of the U. P. church, of Philadelphia, who made a few brief remarks, which were full of good things. The meeting was more largely attended than for several months back. Rev. Dr. Kyle took his text from the book of Jonah, in the following verse: "They that observe lying-vanity forsake their own mercy." He said the word, vanity, had come from the Greek, and formerly meant wind; hence Jonah meant that those who hoisted their sails in false winds were left at their mercy. Jonah knew whereof he spoke, he having disobeyed the Lord's call and started off on his boat, as he thought, to a place of safety, but he found that his sails were filled by false winds, and he subsequently was swallowed by the whale.

From this lesson the speaker drew a comparison of men disobeying Christ's mandates, and in setting up the sails of willful disobedience, they are left at the mercy of the storms. Among the false winds men shift their sails to catch is that of disbelief. Men say they can't believe in Christ, that He is the Son of God, that He is their Savior, and they argue in support of this, that belief is involuntary. Dr. Kyle said that Satan said so, but the faculty of believing is voluntary, and a man who takes the trouble to put before his mind the evidences of Christ, will believe in Him. But if the man determines that he will not try to know Christ, he subordinates his belief to his will. This act is one of the false winds that should be guarded against.

Another false wind is fear; fear that it takes too much effort to reach Heaven. It does take effort, but the man who strives to live a good life can rest assured that he is travelling direct to the goal. Similar to fear, is the false wind of uncertainty. "But if you can't be sure, and you love and trust God, you may rest assured that no such people will be found in perdition," said

the speaker. "You need not worry if you love your God."

Neither need people think that there is any special difficulty in the way of being with Christ. There is no obstacle so great but what the hand of Christ can brush away.

Another false wind to be guarded against, or rather, said the speaker a dead calm, is the belief that some special preparation should be made for death.

He concluded by urging his hearers to listen to the Lord's call, and not be attracted by the false winds, which would certainly bring wrecks and destruction.

Next Sunday afternoon the association will hold a Christmas service, consisting of several brief addresses on appropriate topics.

AMUSEMENTS.



Uncle Nat in "Shore Acres."

The attraction at the Opera House Christmas matinee and evening will be James A. Herne's ideal comedy-drama of American home life, "Shore Acres."

The continued success of "Shore Acres" is commented upon on all sides and is an object lesson to theatrical managers on the value of native plays. There is no need of buying the foreign made article when the theatre patron shows his preference for such works as "Shore Acres," "The Old Homestead" and "Alabama." Every one of these plays has made a fortune for their owners and the demand for plays of a similar class is constantly increasing. Mr. Herne has been asked by several noted players to write for them, but he prefers to present his own works and is looking forward to the production of his new play, "Rev. Griffith Davenport," some time next year. For the production of "Shore Acres" this season an unusually strong company has been engaged, including that clever actor, Archie Boyd, who plays Nathaniel Perry. Among the other players are Messrs. Atkins Lawrence, William H. Burton, James Burrows, Augustus Wolford, James Fenton, and Misses Jeanne Otis, Belle Theodore, Madge Claire, Ethel Connolly, Lillian Claire, Ediza Hudson, and that excellent child actress, Gladys Green.

"O'BRIEN THE CONTRACTOR"

Manager Feinler has secured as the Christmas attraction at the Grand, the play which delighted large audiences one year ago at the Opera House—Daniel Sully in "O'Brien the Contractor." The track-laying scene in act second of the play causes unbounded admiration for its realism. The entire stage is filled with laborers (genuine railroad men) with picks, shovels and sledges, real railroad ties, real rails, real sand, dirt and boulders, and the loud clank of the sledges on the rails responds to the stirring strains of the anvil chorus as the curtain rises on the scene.

"KILLARNEY AND THE RHINE"

Mr. William Jerome has never written a bad play, and to his credit be it said he has given the stage some of its most pleasing productions. "Killarney and the Rhine" is written in his happy style, the elements of a dramatic work and fine comedy being admirably combined. Of the company presenting the play nothing but words of praise can be said. Mr. Toole was with the late W. J. Florence, the elder Emmet, and other well-known stars. His songs and dances are all his own composition. "Killarney and the Rhine" will be on the boards at the Grand the first half of this week, beginning to-night.

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Notice

Persons having watches, clocks, jewelry, etc., left at our store for repairs, had better call for same on or before January 1, 1898. We are going out of business. Our entire stock, including safe and fixtures, for sale. Goods not called for will be sold for charges.

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of this, the largest ground floor dry goods store in the state. GEO. M. SNOOK & CO.

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OTHERS tell their little stories, but Genthner tells the goods.

MISS ALLIE HUGHES, Norfolk, Va., was frightfully burned on the face and neck. Pain was instantly relieved by DEWITT'S Witch Hazel Salve, which healed the injury without leaving a scar. It is the famous pile remedy, Charles H. Goette, Market and Twelfth streets; Chatham Sinclair, Forty-sixth and Jacob streets; A. E. Schuele, No. 607 Main street; Exley Bros., Penn and Zane streets; Bowle & Co., Bridgeport.

IN THE OIL FIELDS.

In the north end of the Elk Fork pool the Fisher Oil Company's No. 2, on the Isaac Hawkins farm, is drilling in the top of the sand. The location is 175 feet west of the No. 1, on the M. A. Gorrell Northeast of Iuka, W. S. Miller & Co. are drilling their wildcat on the E. Stewart farm, to the Gordon sand.

Near Graysville, Greene county, the Natural Gas Company of West Virginia, has drilled its No. 1 on the S. S. Imes farm, through the thirty-foot, and has a duster. This was one of several important tests in that locality. The next most important well due in that part of Greene county is the South Penn Oil company's No. 1, on the F. Jacobs farm, located about midway between Graysville and Bristoria, and a little to the east of a direct line between the two points. The work completed at either end of the supposed belt has not been of such a nature as to encourage a continuance of operations.

Northeast of the Fanner development Tim Ross and others will drill a test well on a ten-acre lease on the Laycock farm. The west end of this farm has been condemned, Murphy Bros. & Co. having run up against a duster early last summer when the Fanner gusher was attracting so much attention. It takes courage and a good bank account to go up against the deep sand in Greene county.

In Ritchie county, W. Va., H. Grayson & Company have drilled in a section well on the Creed, Collins tract, and have a good producer. The new well is located a half mile south of their No. 1, and is showing an extension of that distance to the south. Their first well was drilled in three weeks ago and started at one hundred barrels a day.

The new development on Long Run, Pleasants county, is coming to the front with some good Cow Run wells. Mallory Bros. & Steelsmith have drilled in No. 1, on the Dotson farm, eight hundred feet east of the same company's well on the Schanwecker farm, and have a promising producer.

East of the Dotson farm test, John A. Snell & Miller have started to drill on the Cotton farm. In the same locality the Klondike Oil Company is starting No. 2, on the Reed farm. No. 1 has been put to pumping and will make a fifteen-barrel producer.

WEEKLY OIL REVIEW.

But little change is to be noted in the oil field condition. As winter progresses the disposition to hang up the drill becomes more apparent, and it is only the large companies that are pushing. Outside of the Elk Fork and the deep sand territory there is very little interest manifested in field developments, says the Leader oil critic. The southwest extension in the Elk Fork pool at this writing is credited with a very light producer and a full-fledged duster. They were both located on the James Reed farm for good wells. The Fisher Oil Company has a well in the northern end of the pool on the Hawkins farm only 175 feet from the M. A. Gorrell No. 1. During the week Treat & Crawford brought in a very small well on the J. Farrell farm, and located only 450 feet to the northeast of their No. 4 on the same property. Much interest is centered at present in the advance wells south and west of the late producers, and until they are brought in there will not be any special interest manifested in the drilling of inside wells.

The Fisher Oil Company seemed to have received an inspiration in the Henthorn farm well, as they are starting a dozen more wells in that locality. Treat & Crawford drew a big prize during the week in their No. 6 J. F. Farrell farm, which started off at thirty-five or forty barrels an hour. It is only a few hundred feet southwest from the Agnes Gorrell No. 2. Quite an important wildcat well has just been completed in Washington county by Guffy & Co. near Prosperity, and which turned out a duster. The well was drilled to a depth of 2,600 feet, but all formations were barren.

The Carter Oil Company have been pegging away in the Corwells district, Ritchie county, with anything but flattering results. Their last venture on the Naughton farm proved only a ten-barrel pumper from the salt sand. Maricham & Naughton's drill found a good supply of caloric fluid. The Paova Oil Company, too, got only a drizzle on the N. T. Douglas farm. In both the salt and Big Injun sands the Fairmont Oil Company got a duster on the Greathorn farm, Big Run, Grant district. In this venture much hope was centered, which made the failure all the more disappointing. Captain Peter Grace and his associates had what they considered a pretty sure thing on Plum run, Murphy district, on the Winick farm, but they only found a diminutive pumper and it will hardly pay to operate. Wirt county has also furnished several failures during the week, the most important being the Neal farm well on Island run, Newark district. Near Standing Stone, Sibley & Miller have a rig ready for the drill, as have the Bridgewater Company. In Kanawha county, Sheridan dis-

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P. S.—REASONABLE TERMS OF CREDIT IF DESIRED.

trict, two important test wells have just been completed on the Big Kanawha river, Union district, by the Charles-ton Gas Company, both of which are dusters. The wildest ventures in Greene county, Pa., are not panning out so well as anticipated by their promoters. In fact, they most invariably proven costly gambles, as well as condemned a large amount of territory. The Natural Gas Company of West Virginia completed their No. 1 on the S. S. Imes farm, near Graysville, a rank duster. Next in importance to this well is the South Penn Oil Company's test venture on the F. Jacobs farm, about half way between Graysville and Bristoria, a little to the east.

Tim Ross and others believe there is oil in paying quantities north and east of the old Fanner developments, and are starting a well on the Laycock farm. The western part of this farm was condemned by a rank duster drilled by the Murphy Bros. last spring about the time the Fanner excitement was highest. The new diggings in Pleasants county, on Long run, are showing up fairly well. The Cow Run sand is not very expensive to operate, and if the wells are not like Elk Fork gushers, they soon pay out on their cost. Mallory Bros. & Co. have completed their No. 1 Dotson farm, about 1,000 feet east of the Schanwecker farm, a producer, which gives every promise of making a fair producer. The owners are starting another well in the same locality. East of this well the Snee & Miller have started a well on the Cotton property. The Klondike Oil Company's No. 1 Reed farm has been tested, and is rated at twelve barrels a day. They are starting No. 2 on the same farm.

THE latest and best games Arch-Arena and Carroms, for sale at Stanton's Old City Book Store.

ROGERS' Knives and Forks \$2.75 per dozen at O. C. Genthner's.

SEE Genthner's fine Bracelets for \$1.00.

MOUNDSVILLE

A Miscellaneous Melange of Minor Matters from Marshall's Metropolis.

The machinery has arrived for the new shirt factory and will be put in place at once. The Roberts' building, on Jefferson avenue, will be used for the factory for the present.

The health officer only knows of air cases of scarlet fever the city, and every precaution is being taken to prevent the disease from spreading.

Governor Atkinson has pardoned John Jones, who was convicted of bigamy in 1896, and sentenced to two and one half years in the penitentiary.

The gas company has completed the laying of pipes on Sixth street and the north end of Lafayette avenue.

Rev. John Bryson has returned to his charge at Proctor, after spending several days with friends in the city.

Miss Mary Parkinson has returned home from a visit with friends in the west.

Misses Lora and Dora Blake are visiting their sister, Mrs. M. Tahey, of Littleton.

Charles Manning is home on a vacation from the Baltimore Dental College.

Our Dress Goods stock is no longer a seller. Special Christmas values. GEO. M. SNOOK & CO.

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A glance at the advertising columns will convince any merchant that it is appreciated by the business men. Christmas is coming, and you will want buyers. The Intelligencer will be pleased to lead them to you.